



Nonuclearwaste@aol.com on 09/06/2001 09:59:40 AM

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SEP 06 2001

Subject: Followup on the Yucca 9/5 Public Hearing in Las Vegas Valley

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

I arrived at 4 PM at the DOE facility in North Las Vegas. When I signed in to speak at this hearing, I was given #50. I understand that only about 36 people spoke before 11 PM.

I request that the DOE hold another public hearing in Las Vegas Valley for the people who could not speak yesterday. This hearing should be held in the daytime and scheduled when the Secretary of Energy can attend.

The 9/5 Public Hearing was ill-timed and ill-prepared to properly receive the public's comments.

Also, it should be clarified that these Public Hearings are not the final opportunity for the Public to comment on the Yucca Mountain Project. The Handling of the Nuclear Waste is too important of a Program to Nevadans and American not to have full and complete participation of the Public. The FEIS has not been issued to address the over 11,000 public comments.

Further, the Nuclear Waste Program should be treated as a WHOLE and not fragmented as being done with the Yucca Mountain Project.

The Yucca Mountain Project is a faulty project which is based on poor political decisions that were enacted into a law by ignorant politicians that did not want the Nuclear Waste in their backyard. Yucca Mountain selection process was not Scientific nor was proper Engineering methodology used. Congress subverted the Engineering Site Selection Process by eliminating all other Alternative Sites and Methodologies. This is a poor and improper way to solve an Engineering Problem. Since there are not Alternative to switch, DOE is ignoring many of the safety issues and using engineered barriers instead of the original concept of using geologic barriers to contain the Nuclear Waste.

Yucca Mountain is a political solution that will be continued to be opposed my many American across this Nation. By ignoring the Transportation Impact on the American People at this time, DOE is doing a disservice to Americans. Even if DOE continues to proceed to railroad the approval of Yucca Mountain as this Nation's Nuclear Waste Dump, there will be many other battles over how to actually get the 77,000 tons of waste to Yucca Mountain.

The DOE staff and managers have used very poor unscientific discussions addressing the Transportation, which is the major concern of Americans. The solving of the Nuclear Waste is more of a Transportation Problem than a storage problem.

This Nation needs Leadership now to solve the Nation's Electric Energy needs. Bureaucrats who follow twenty-year old and outdated programs are not what this Nation needs now.

With the aging existing electric generating plants, how will this Nation meet the ever increasing demand for electricity? The Secretary of Energy can be a leader to help this Nation by looking at Nuclear Power with a new eyes and recommending to the President that there is a viable energy source in the Nuclear Wastes that should be recovered and recycled to both provide needed electricity and help address the concerns of global warming that is claimed by some to be caused by the ever increasing green house gasses.

Yucca Mountain Project should be set aside until this Nation's Nuclear Energy element of the Energy Policy and Program is established, since recycling of Nuclear Waste will significantly reduce the High-Level waste that will need to be stored.

How many years will the fight on Yucca Mountain and Transportation of Nuclear Waste go on? Nevada has not yet even started in the Courts with the lawyers. Yucca Mountain Project Process has many legal weaknesses that can be used to cause years of delay.

Most Nevadans are opposed to Yucca Mountain; but, they are currently are not threatened by shipments of waste starting in 2010. In the future, more and more Nevadans and others along the Transportation routes will become more active and creatively involved.

DOE's past history with Nevadans is not good regarding Radiation. DOE is not credible with Nevadans and others. The Public Hearing on 9/5 in Las Vegas did nothing to change our opinions that DOE's staff and managers have a preconceived idea about Yucca Mountain and are only looking at a schedule which is way behind. DOE is only going through the steps so that they can claim that they had public involvement in a process that was set up to be faulty from the beginning.

Is the Secretary of Energy and President Bush up to the challenge to solve this Nation's Electric Energy problems? How are we going to replace the 20 per cent of the electric supply provided by Nuclear Power? We need your leadership to redirect this Nation's Energy Program which is currently fragmented. The historic Electric Utilities are not in a position to provide leadership as was done in the past. The Industry has changed. For example, California's two largest utilities, PG&E and SCE, are facing financial ruin.

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P.S. I am a retired Nuclear Engineer and Power Engineering Manager from California. I have been living in Henderson for over four years and plan to stay here.



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